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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (Previously Presented) A conjugate comprising two polypeptides, one polypeptide being a cytokine receptor, or subunit thereof, and the other polypeptide being a cytokine, or subunit thereof, that binds to said cytokine receptor, wherein the polypeptides are linked to each other via a polypeptide linker.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) The conjugate according to claim 1, wherein the receptor is a subunit of a cytokine receptor and binds to a ~~said~~ ligand.

Claim 3. (Previously Presented) The conjugate according to claim 1, wherein the cytokine is a subunit of a cytokine and binds to said receptor.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) The conjugate according to claim 1, wherein the cytokine receptor is an IL-6 receptor and the cytokine is an IL-6 ~~IL-6~~.

Claim 5. (Withdrawn) The conjugate according to claim 1, wherein the cytokine receptor is a CNTF receptor and the cytokine is a CNTF.

Claim 6. (Canceled)

Claim 7. (Previously Presented) DNA coding for the conjugate according to claim 1.

Claim 8. (Previously Presented) An expression plasmid comprising the DNA according to claim 7.

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Claim 9. (Previously Presented) A transformant containing the expression plasmid according to claim 8.

Claim 10. (Canceled)

Claim 11. (Previously Presented) A method for influencing the interaction between proteins comprising incubating the conjugate according to claims 1, 2, 3 or 4 or the expression plasmid according to claim 8 with isolated cells and determining said interaction.

Claim 12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein the cells are stem cells.